GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:181
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2017
Bharat Net Project
Kesineni Shri Srinivas;Teacher Smt. P.K.Sreemathi

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Net Project has been launched in mission mode to connect all Gram Panchayats to provide high speed internet services in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats that have been connected through optical fibre under the project, State/UT-wise along with the number of Gram Panchayats which are yet to be linked, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the delay in the progress of the said project and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the funds allocated/released/utilized for the project during each of the last three years and the current year and the time by which the said project is likely to be wholly operational; and

(e) the details of other projects implemented under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to augment mobile and internet connectivity across the country along with the fund generated through USOF and utilized during the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.181 FOR 15TH MARCH, 2017 REGARDING "BHARAT NET PROJECT ".

(a) BharatNet project is being implemented with the objective to create network infrastructure for providing Broadband connectivity of 100 Mbps to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is the special purpose vehicle (SPV) to implement, operate and manage the project. The Phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) is being implemented through three CPSUs namely, BSNL, RailTel & PGCIL. Non-discriminatory access is to be provided to the service providers for provision of services.

(b) The State/UT-wise list of GPs which have been connected by optical fibre cable under BharatNet is at Annexure-I.

(c) Government has taken cognizance of the delay in the project and identified the reasons for delay and taken corrective actions as under :

1. Reasons for delay :

(i) Delay in the initial commencement of project due to field survey of GPs to assess the cable route and length, and pilot testing of the technology model.
(ii) Implementation of the project only through three CPSUs namely, BSNL, RailTel and PGCIL
(iii) Connectivity to GPs only by laying underground OFC.
(iv) Inadequate quality of BSNL fibre between Block and Fibre Point of Interconnect (FPOI) being used to connect GPs.
(v) Centralised procedure of procurement and sourcing of equipment through BBNL.

2. Corrective actions taken :

(i) Telecom Commission approved revised implementation strategy on 30.04.2016. According to revised strategy
a. Implementation of the project is to be done in phases; Phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs by following the current methodology to connect by underground OFC; Phase-II to connect remaining GPs through optimal mix of underground/ aerial OFC, radio and satellite media.
b. Implementation of Phase-II through States and private sector in addition to CPSUs.
(ii) Replacement of BSNL's existing fibre wherever the quality of the cable is not adequate.
(iii) Work front for Phase-I has been increased to 1,25,000.
(iv) Decentralised procurement of equipment through implementing CPSUs in addition to Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL).
(v) Empowered Committee under Secretary (T), Steering Committee under Administrator, USOF and State-level Committees have been set up for monitoring of the progress and resolution of issues.
(vi) Operation & Maintenance (O&M) and revenue sharing arrangement between BBNL and BSNL has been approved by DoT.
(vii) For laying of aerial OFC, advance funding to conduct GIS mapping of electricity poles has been provided to seven states.

(d) The funds allocated/released/utilised for the BharatNet project during each of the last three years and the current year are given below:
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Sl. No. Year Fund allocated (Rs. in crore) Fund Utilized (Rs. in crore)
1 2012-13 405.00 405.00
2 2013-14 514.00 514.00
3 2014-15 1351.86 1351.86
4 2015-16 2415.10 2415.10
5 2016-17 (till Feb '17) 4616.83 4616.83
Total 9302.79 9302.79
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Phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs is scheduled to be completed by March, 2017. The connectivity to all the GPs is to be provided by December, 2018.

(e) The other projects being implemented by Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) to augment mobile and internet connectivity are as below :

(i) Scheme to provide mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremist (LWE) areas is under implementation through BSNL. So far, a total of 2186 mobile towers out of 2199 locations in ten states as identified by MHA and approved by the Cabinet, have started radiating.
(ii) Other schemes funded by USOF include comprehensive telecom development plan for the North Eastern Region to provide mobile connectivity in 8621 uncovered villages, mobile connectivity in 172 uncovered villages in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, sub-marine OFC connectivity from mainland India (Chennai) to Port Blair, augmentation of satellite bandwidth in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands, augmentation of OFC network from district to sub-district headquarters in North East.

The funds generated through USOF and utilised is given below :
(Rupees in Crore)
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Financial Year

(1) Funds Collected as USL

(2) Funds disbursed

(3)
2013-14 7896.39 2163.45
2014-15 7537.88 2086.98
2015-16 9835.70 3100.00
2016-17 (Prov. Till Feb '17) 6907.79 4903.77
Total 32177.76
12254.20

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Contdâ€¦â€¦..4/-

Annexure-I

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BharatNet Phase-I Status as on 05.03.2017

Sr. No	State	Total GPs	GPs in Phase-1	Pipe laid (Kms)	Cable laid (Kms)	Pipe laid GPs	Cable laid GPs	Lit GPs
1	Andhra Pradesh	12920	The state has shown willingness to implement the project for all GPs in AP through State led model through aerial OFC					
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1766	863	1169	217	419	44	0
3	Assam	2589	1540	3457	2743	1287	962	354
4	Bihar	8380	5750	10616	8921	4338	3443	442
5	Chhattisgarh	9770	4004	8634	5369	2991	1862	1237
6	Gujarat	14050	6979	9287	7606	4148	3462	330
7	Haryana	6090	6090	8410	6685	5041	4155	650
8	Himachal Pradesh	3243	283	442	336	110	107	0
9	Jammu &Kashmir	4099	680	336	300	175	150	0
10	Jharkhand	4423	2713	4182	3625	1517	1387	344
11	Karnataka	5599	5599	10704	11054	5643	5558	4826
12	Kerala	977	977	720	826	1129	1129	1129
13	Madhya Pradesh	23024	12564	33011	24767	11137	8212	2085
14	Maharashtra	27987	15335	23881	21725	11898	9625	1483
15	Manipur	2794	904	196	73	82	24	26
16	Meghalaya	1208	1208	1188	321	414	94	0
17	Mizoram	645	645	638	210	60	7	0
18	Nagaland	1124	994	2443	998	759	527	0
19	Odisha	6235	4289	6739	5989	2550	2452	445
20	Punjab	12945	8171	8464	7642	6060	5312	102
21	Rajasthan	9157	8207	18352	16447	6365	5463	1044
22	Sikkim	163	55	0	0			
23	Telangana	8759	2097	4492	4285	1977	1937	130
24	Tripura	1021	1021	1615	1461	785	708	79
25	Uttar Pradesh (E)	37461	17645	28540	24563	15076	11930	882
26	Uttar Pradesh (W)	14515	10050	15619	14028	8128	6506	424
27	Uttarakhand	7555	1885	2496	2318	1359	1251	288
28	West Bengal	3354	2751	3985	3661	1467	1414	219
29	Andaman & Nicobar	69	69	0	0	0	0	
30	Chandigarh	12	12	18	19	12	12	12
31	Dadra & Nagar Havelli	21	21	0	0	0	0	
32	Daman & Diu	17	17	0	0	0	0	
33	Lakshadweep	10	10	0	0	0	0	
34	Puducherry	98	98	82	92	98	98	101
Total		232080	123526	211630	176304	95025	77831	16632

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